

Capitol Contact

Bruce Craig

End of Congress Wrap-up

The 102nd Congress ended the session with the usual flurry of last-minute activity. By the time Congress adjourned a total of 10 new units had been added to the national park system over the two-year session. In addition, 30 new national wild and scenic rivers had been designated along with 8 new wilderness areas totaling 426,000 acres.

Several of the new national park units were historical areas. While Manzanar NHS, Marsh-Billings NHP (see article elsewhere in this issue), and Salt River Bay NHP had been authorized earlier in the year, in the closing hours of Congress, legislation for three additional new historical areas was sent to the President: Keweenaw National Historical Park, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

Keweenaw NHP (P.L. 102-543)

Keweenaw National Historical Park is located on the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan and seeks to interpret and preserve the story of copper mining in the United States from aboriginal times to the turn of the 20th century. Based on the findings of a feasibility/suitability study released in February 1991, the National Park Service supported the enactment of this legislation. Historic preservationists generally lauded the establishment of the area though some expressed concern that Keweenaw was not necessarily the best site in the Nation to tell the story of the extractive copper mining industry.

Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP (P.L. 102-419)

This new area seeks to preserve and interpret a number of historic sites in Dayton, OH, that are related to the Wright brothers and the invention and development of the airplane. While the national park system already includes the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, NC, Dayton seeks to focus more broadly on the history of American aviation.

The new park includes a number of Wright brothers-related structures in the Wright-Dunbar Historic District, and through cooperative agreement, the

Huffman Prairie Flying Field which is a part of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The new area also includes the residence of Paul Laurence Dunbar, an important black poet, novelist, and syndicated columnist. Dunbar was a friend and classmate of the Wrights and was the first African-American writer in the United States to derive an income primarily from his writings. In commemorating both the technological innovation of the Wright Brothers and the literary creativity of Dunbar the new area promises to be a true "partnership park" (also see CRM, Vol. 15, No. 2, "Discovering Our Aviation Heritage").

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site (P.L. 102-525)

In 1896 the Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* permitted segregation of races in public facilities. In 1954, Oliver Brown and 12 other plaintiffs successfully challenged the Plessy decision and brought an end to official segregation in public education. Brown v. Board of Education NHS preserves the Monroe Elementary School, one of the two important National Historic Landmark sites in Topeka, KS (the other being the Sumner Elementary School) designated in recognition of their national significance to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Sumner Elementary, which was the all-white school that refused to enroll Linda Brown, is still an active school. The Monroe Elementary, the black elementary school Linda Brown attended, is now privately owned and vacant. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Monroe school and assist in the preservation and interpretation of related resources within the city of Topeka to further advance understanding of the civil rights movement.

If you would like additional information on any of the laws discussed above, drop me a note at: National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036.

National Archeological Survey Initiative

Michele C. Aubry

On October 13, 1992, the **National Park Service's Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program** was announced by Director James M. Ridenour. Developed as a part of the Service's National Archeological Survey Initiative, it sets forth a long-term approach to inventory archeological resources in units of the national park system. The goal is to conduct systematic, scientific research to

locate, evaluate, and document archeological resources under the Service's stewardship. Resulting information about the location, characteristics, and significance of archeological sites will enable park planners and managers to make informed and more effective decisions about the preservation, treatment, and protection of the resources.

The program establishes minimum systemwide program requirements, standards, and priorities to assist the Service's regional offices and parks in planning, programming, funding, and conducting inventories. It calls for development of regionwide archeological survey plans that tailor the systemwide program requirements to the specific nature of the regions and their parks. In addition, it encourages the parks and regional offices to cooperate and collaborate on inventories in partnership with states, other Federal land managers, Indian tribes, and others.

The National Park Service's Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program was developed by a servicewide task force composed of archeologists Michele C. Aubry (Washington Office, task force leader), Dana C. Linck (Applied Archeology Center), Dr. Mark J. Lynott (Midwest Archeological Center), Robert R. Mierendorf (North Cascades National Park), and Dr. Kenneth M. Schoenberg (Alaska Regional Office). Published copies are available by writing to the Anthropology Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Michele Aubry is a senior archeologist and NASI Task Force leader in the Anthropology Division.

National Catalog Update

Kandace J. Muller

The National Catalog is the repository for archival paper and electronic copies of museum catalog records from parks throughout the National Park Service. This past year was one of transition for the National Catalog in terms of both physical space and care of the museum catalog records and analysis of the data they contain.

A compact storage system was installed in the National Catalog vault. This system was designed to hold 7 million records for the National Park Service collections currently held. It allows for easy physical access to the expanding number of paper museum catalog records at the National Catalog. In addition, a media safe has been installed for storage of the electronic media submitted.

This year, the date that museum catalog records are submitted was changed from a calendar to a fiscal year basis. The museum catalog record submission year is now synchronized with the annual Collection Management Reports which are on a fiscal year basis. This change will facilitate more efficient access to information by park, center, regional and WASO staff.

Parks are now required to submit electronic copy to the National Catalog in addition to archival paper records. Both the electronic and paper records are used to analyze the museum catalog records submitted and to initiate the servicewide aggregation of data.

Over 400,000 records were submitted in FY1991, making it the largest submission ever received at the National Catalog. The consistency and quality of museum catalog record submissions received from the parks have increased along with their quantity. The last few years have been a period of growth and change as parks have documented tremendous quantities of objects and specimens through the use of backlog cataloging funding, totalling \$10.5 million from 1988 through 1991.

Changes at the National Catalog will be ongoing as the staff continues to make the transition from the manual cataloging system to a computerized system, and move toward an aggregated servicewide database. The end result will be increased accountability and intellectual access to the collections in the care of the National Park Service. It is a goal well worth the great effort and resources put into the National Catalog program.

Kandace J. Muller is a museum technician at the National Catalog.

Preservation Resources

Publications

Managing Resources

The *Heritage Notes* series provides guidance on a range of topics in historic resource management. Written by the staff of the Historic Sites and Archives Service of Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and other experts, the series focuses on architectural preservation, heritage planning, collections and facility management. For more information or to order, contact Ema Dominey, Coordinator, Architectural Preservation Services Publication Programme, Old St.

Stephen's College, 8820 112th Street, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2P8; 403-427-2022.

Visiting Civil War Battlefields

In an effort to help protect Civil War battlefields threatened by overuse, the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) has released a free brochure, *Visiting Battlefields: The Civil War*, which will serve as an educational outreach component of *The Vanishing Civil War*, a TV program to be nationally broadcast by PBS in early 1993. According to recent National Park Service statistics, nearly 10 million people visit national battlefield and military parks every year. As public interest in the Civil War continues to grow, visitation to the war's battlefields is expected to rise significantly above its past levels.

For a copy of the brochure, write to NPCA/Civil War, Dept. PEC, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036.

Learning About Fortifications

Military Fortifications, A Selective Bibliography, compiled by Dale E. Floyd, historian, Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Staff, National Park Service.

This is the first English-language general bibliography on military fortifications. It deals with the history of fortifications from the earliest times to the present throughout the world. Design, construction, and maintenance of all types of fortifications are noted, from permanent to temporary, from earthworks to fortifications of wood and stone.

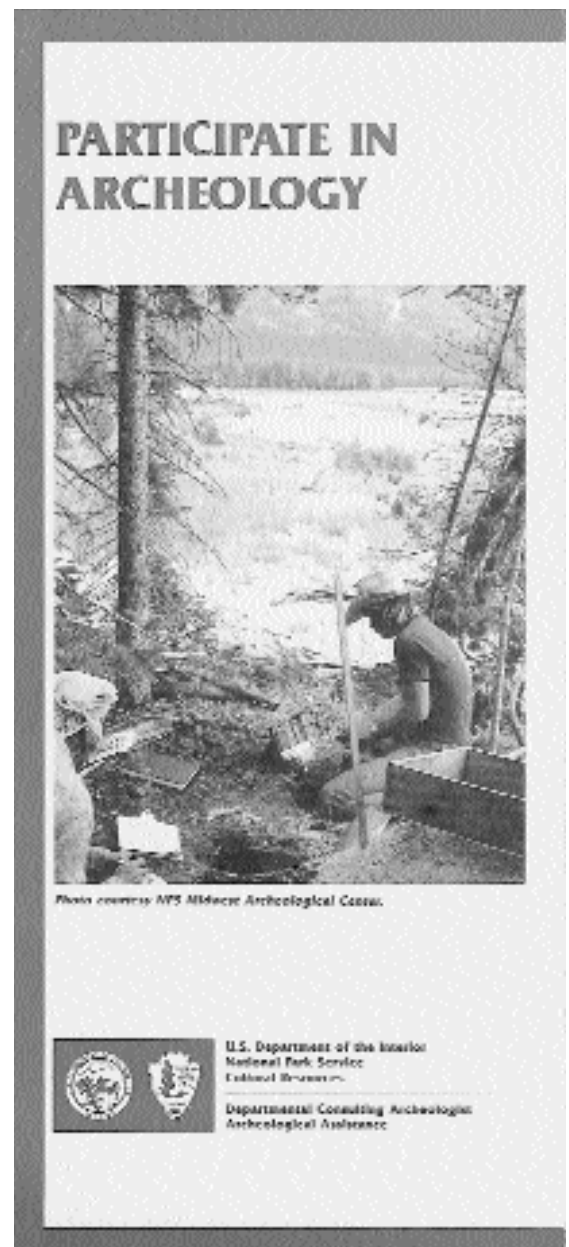
Order from Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881; 203-226-3571; Fax: 203-222-1502.

Participating in Archeology

Color photographs of archeological work in progress are an eye-catching feature of a new brochure, *Participate in Archeology*, developed and designed by the Departmental Consulting Archeologist/Archeological Assistance Program of the National Park Service (NPS) in cooperation with the Public Awareness Working Group of senior Federal archeologists.

Intended for distribution to the general public, this brochure explains the importance of archeological sites and details a variety of ways that members of the public can learn more about them and become active in their study and preservation. The brochure was funded by the NPS, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of the Army, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

To request copies contact Roger Friedman, National Park Service, Archeological Assistance Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; 202-343-1881; fax: 202-523-1547.



Participate in Archeology brochure.